

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

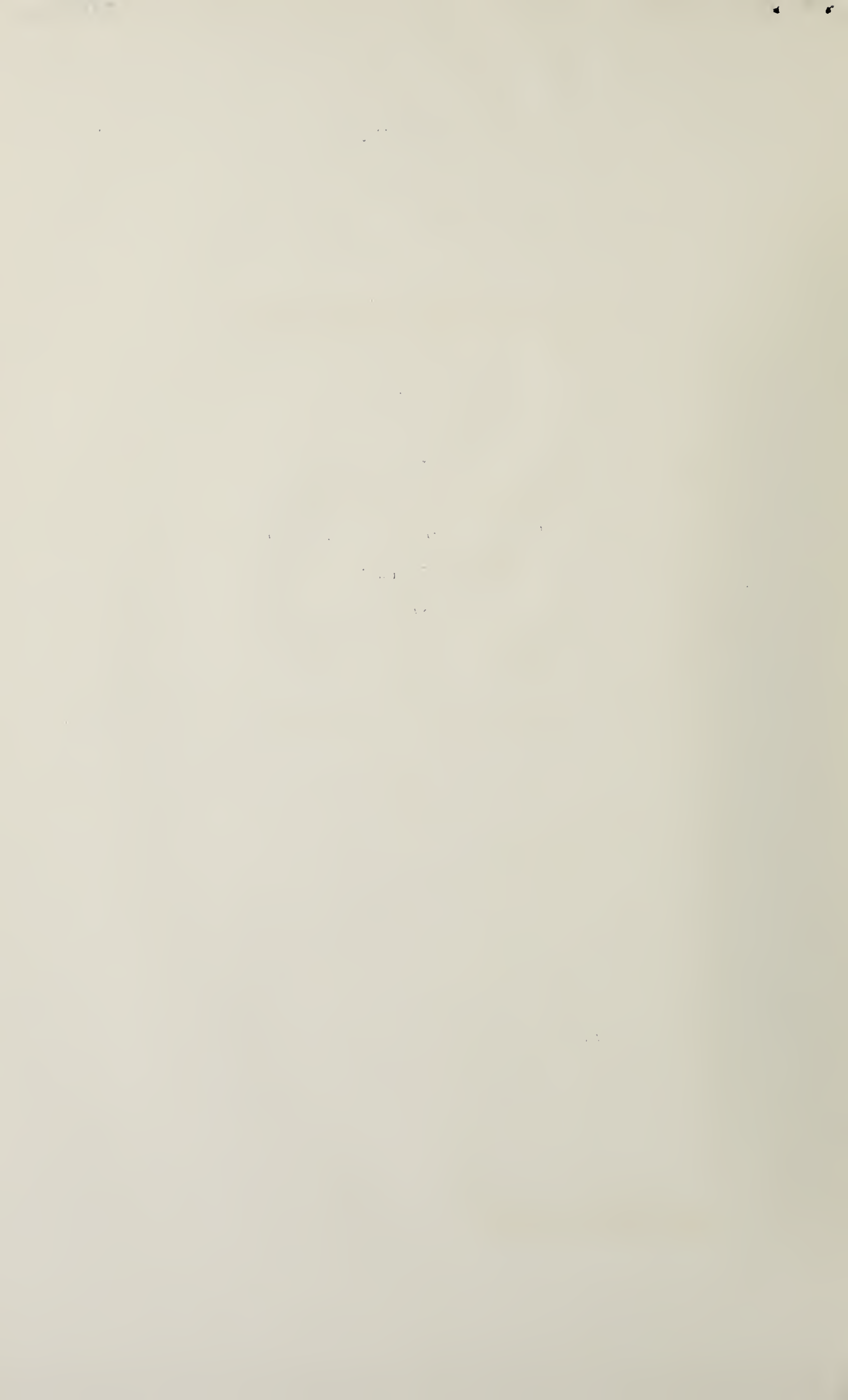
URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER

FOR THE YEAR

1948.



WM. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1948

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)

DR. WILLIAM MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,

Albert Place, Little Lever.

(Telephone Farnworth 39)

Sanitary Inspector (Joint Appointment, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector)

CHARLES A. FORD, M.S.I.A.

Council Offices, Little Lever.

(Telephone Farnworth 637)

OTHER OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk and Accountant

WILLIAM KELLY.

Surveyor (Joint Appointment, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector)

CHARLES A. FORD, M.S.I.A.

Collector

JAMES C. COLLINGE.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## For the Urban District of Little Lever for the year 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Little Lever Urban District Council:

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval, my report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever during the year ended December 31st, 1948.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The area of the township is 808 acres. The estimated population is 4,762, compared with 4,944 in the 1931 census. There are 1,568 inhabited houses in the district as against 1,548 in 1947 and 1,443 in the 1931 census. This gives a rate of approximately three persons per house. The rateable value of the district is £21,878, and the sum raised by a penny rate is approximately £80.

Social conditions are fairly good, and there is very little unemployment. The district is mainly industrial in character, the chief industries being cotton-weaving, paper-making, ebonite and plastics manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, coal-mining and dairy-farming.

### Births

The number of live births registered in 1948 was 92, as against 90 in 1947. This figure is made up of 45 males (2 illegitimate) and 47 females (1 illegitimate). The birth rate is 19.3 per 1,000 of population, compared with 19.5 in 1947 and a mean rate of 19.1 for the previous five years. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1948 was 17.9.

### Still Births

There were two still births in 1948, both being males. This gives a rate of 21 per 1,000 of total births, compared with a rate of 32 for 1947.

### Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes in 1948 was 78 (46 males and 32 females). This is an increase of 10 on the figure for 1947. The death rate for 1948 was 16.3 per 1,000 of population as against 14.7 for 1947 and a mean rate of 15.0 for the previous five years. The death rate for England and Wales in 1948 was 10.8. The average age at death in the district was 55 years for males and 68 years for females.

### Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of children under one year in 1948 was 3 (2 males and 1 female). This is a decrease of two on the figure for 1947, and is equal to a rate of 32 per 1,000 of live births, as against 55 in 1947 and a mean rate of 48 for the previous five years. The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales in 1948 was 34.

### Maternal Mortality

Once again there were no maternal deaths in 1948, thus giving a Nil rate per 1,000 of total births, the same as in 1947, and a mean rate of Nil for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales in 1948 was 0.26 per 1,000 of total births.





## Midwifery Services

There are no resident midwives in the district, but there are three midwives on the list of midwives engaged by the County Council, who reside in Farnworth and who are available for the Little Lever area. All three are readily accessible, as they are all on the telephone. The service provided by them has been quite efficient and satisfactory. Many maternity cases from the district were admitted to Townleys Hospital, Farnworth, and to other Maternity Homes outside the district, but quite a large number of women were confined in their own homes.

## General Provision of Health Services for the District

<u>Clinics and Treatment Centres</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Provided by</u>
Maternity and Child Welfare	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.
Tuberculosis	Farnworth	Lancashire C.C.
School Clinic	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.
Venereal Diseases	Bolton	Lancashire C.C.

## Infectious Diseases

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of Infections Diseases during 1948:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Sent to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths in Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	7	2	5	7	Nil	Nil
Measles	18	10	8	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	111	56	55	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia	6	5	1	Nil	Nil	3
Erysipelas	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scabies & Dermatitis	1	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
	<u>144</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>3</u>

## Sex and Age Incidence in Infectious Diseases

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>		<u>Measles</u>		<u>Whooping Cough</u>		<u>Acute Pneumonia</u>		<u>Erysipelas</u>		<u>Scabies &amp; Dermatitis</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Under 1	-	-	-	-	3	7	1	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	3	1	10	7	1	-	-	-	-	-
2 -	-	-	3	3	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 -	-	1	1	3	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 -	1	1	3	-	15	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	3	-	1	14	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Nil</u>





## Tuberculosis

New cases and Mortality during 1948:--

<u>Age</u> <u>Periods</u> <u>Years</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
0 to 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 to 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>5</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>1</u>	

At the end of 1948, the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register was 20, comprising 15 Respiratory Cases and 5 Non-Respiratory Cases.


The DeathRate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System in 1948 was Nil, as against 0.43 per 1,000 of population in 1947, and a mean rate of 0.36 for the previous five years.

## Causes of Death

The following table shows the deaths from all causes in 1948:--

<u>Diseases Causing Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Cancer of Uterus	-	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2	5
Cancer of all other sites	5	3	8
Diabetes	-	5	5
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	5	4	9
Heart Diseases	15	9	24
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	1	2
Bronchitis	3	-	3
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis	1	-	1
Premature Birth	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	2	1	3
Suicide	1	1	2
All other causes	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>46</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>78</u>

There were fourteen deaths from Cancer in 1948, compared with seven in 1947. This gives a death rate of 2.93 per 1,000 of population, as against 1.52 in 1947, and a mean rate of 1.81 for the previous five years.



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### Ophthalmia Neonatorum

As in 1947, no cases of this disease were notified during 1948.

### District Nursing Association

Once again, the Association has carried out its noble work with the same devotion and unselfishness as in previous years. The Nurse has carried out her duties in a most efficient manner and with a cheerfulness which has gained for her a deep sense of gratitude and esteem from her patients. The Committee have been unstinting in their efforts to maintain the sound financial position of the Association, and have received generous help from the public generally. The Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and one of the latter's officials comes periodically to inspect the work done by the Nurse.

### Hospital Accommodation

The Council have an agreement with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board for the reception and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases. Beds are available, as required, at the following Institutions:-

Smallpox Hospital, Ainsworth - for cases of Smallpox;  
Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury - for other Infectious Diseases.

Both Hospitals are controlled by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, and the retaining fees payable by the Council are:-

Smallpox - £20 per annum;  
Other Infectious Diseases - £25 per annum.

The Joint Hospital Board provide an ambulance service for conveying patients to hospital. The service provided has been, at all times, highly satisfactory.

### Voluntary Hospital Arrangements.

The Council subscribe the following amounts:-

Bolton Royal Infirmary	- £10.10. 0. per annum
Manchester & Salford Medical Charities Fund	- £30. 0. 0. per annum
Little Lever District Nursing Association	- £13.13. 0. per annum

The Council have an agreement with the Borough of Farnworth for the provision of an ambulance service for conveying patients from the district to the various hospitals. As in former years, the service provided was extremely good, and left no grounds for criticism.

### Adoptive Acts in force

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, Part 4.  
Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907, Parts 2 and 4.  
Public Health Acts, 1925, Part 2 except Sections 22 and 25.





### Sanitary Accommodation

The types of sanitary accommodation, with the numbers of each type at the end of 1948, were as follows:-

Privy Middens	4
Closets attached to these middens	4
Pail Closets	7
Waste-Water Closets	79
Fresh-Water Closets	1,463
Movable Ashbins for refuse	1,590
Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	2
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	1,568

During the year, five waste-water closets were converted to fresh-water closets.

### Sanitary Inspections

During 1948, the number of premises visited for sanitary inspections was 267. As a result of these visits, 54 defects or nuisances were discovered. Of these, 39 were abated through the issuing of 34 informal notices. No Statutory Notices were required, and no legal proceedings were necessary.

Bakehouses, Dairies and Cowsheds have been periodically inspected during the year, and have been found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition. There are eight dairy farms in the district, with approximately 120 cows between them. Two samples of milk were taken for testing as to Tuberculosis, but both were negative. In addition, 18 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, but all were found to be satisfactory.

Factories and workshops have been inspected from time to time, and have been found to be in a satisfactory state.

Food shops have also been inspected, and have been passed as satisfactory.

### Water Supply

The water supply is from the Irwell Valley Water Board's mains, and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with a piped supply being 1,568. Thirty-four new houses were connected to the water supply during the year. Samples of the water supply were taken during 1948 for bacteriological and chemical analysis. 138 samples for bacteriological examination were all satisfactory, and 33 samples for chemical examination were also satisfactory. The pressure, however, in certain parts of the district is extremely poor.

### Sewage and Refuse Disposal

Sewage Disposal was quite satisfactory during the year. The sewage is treated by screening, sedimentation, dosing, filtration, humus tanks, and clinker beds. No extensions to the sewage works were carried out in 1948. Samples of the effluent were tested periodically by the Inspectors of the Lancashire Rivers Board, and all were classed as satisfactory. There are a few isolated cottages without an efficient sewerage system because there is no sewer in the vicinity.

The sewers have been flushed and the manholes cleaned from time to time, and appropriate steps have been taken to combat the menace of rats.

House refuse is collected each week by the Council's covered motor wagon, and for twenty weeks in the summer period is collected each fortnight. Privy closets are emptied each fortnight. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on waste land.



### Smoke Abatement

The Council are members of the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes per half hour. There are 15 factory and works chimneys in the district, and 6 observations were made on these during 1948, but no legal proceedings were required. Personal contact is made with works managers and firemen, and, in general, there is willing co-operation in minimising pollution of the atmosphere.

### Housing

Thirty-two new houses were erected by the Local Authority during 1948, and two were erected by private builders.

#### Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority

1. Under 1919 Scheme	113
2. Under Housing Act, 1923	11
3. Under Housing Act, 1924	122
4. Erected during 1936	30
5. Erected during 1937	38
6. Erected during 1938	34
7. Erected during 1947	14
8. Erected during 1948	<u>32</u>

Total ..... 394

### Housing Conditions

Housing conditions in the district vary considerably, but on the whole are fairly good, and the general standard of housing compares very favourably with other industrial areas. The commonest type of house is the four-roomed cottage containing two bedrooms. There are about 900 of this type in the area, but there at least 200 of these which fall very much below the general standard. The chief defects in these houses are dampness, low ceilings, old age, absence of bathrooms, poor sanitary conveniences, absence of a hot-water supply, poor water pressure, and bad siting. Far too many houses were built in drab, monotonous rows, abutting directly on to the street, with no signs of grass or trees, and shut off from sunlight and fresh air. Many of them are over 100 years old, and bearing in mind the quality of the materials put into them, they are now far below modern standards of housing, and should be seriously considered as only fit for demolition. Living conditions in them are deplorable and are certainly not conducive to a healthy family life. There are still many cases of overcrowding in the district, due in no small measure to the slow progress made in building new houses.

Thirty-two new houses were built by the Local Authority during the year, and two by private builders, but as more than 300 new houses are needed, it is obvious that no solution of the housing problem is within reasonable reach. There is a great need for three- and four-bedroom types of houses, as well as a need for small houses to accommodate old couples. It appears to be the fashion at the present time to insist on every house having a garden, but it is as well to consider that many would-be tenants of Council houses are not interested in gardening, and also that old couples and old widows and widowers are not capable of looking after a garden.

For these people, it might well be worth while considering the erection of blocks of flats, houses and bungalows in small rows, with communal lawns and gardens which could be kept in order by the Council's employees.

Some progress was made during the year on the Mytham Road Housing Scheme, which, when completed, will consist of 350 houses, but at the present rate of progress, it will be many years before the scheme is completed.





### Town Planning

The Council are members of the Bolton and District Regional Planning Committee, and the Council's representatives serve on the Committee and report back to the Council. There is close liaison between the two bodies, and the Council, in its local planning, keeps always in mind the broader aspects of regional planning.

### Disinfection

Seven houses were disinfected during the year, after notifications of Scarlet Fever. The method used is Formic Aldehyde in the sealed room of the house.

Six houses, none of them Council houses, were found in 1948 to be infested with bugs, and disinfection was carried out by the Local Authority, with the aid of D.D.T. and Gammexane Sprays. These methods proved very satisfactory. Regular visits and inspections of the houses treated were made after treatment.

### Public Health Laboratory

Apart from milk samples sent to the Laboratory for analysis, there was no occasion to use the services provided by the Laboratory.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

Further progress in the immunisation of children was made in 1948. The total number immunised was 37 as against 53 in 1947. Of this number, there were 32 pre-school children, and 5 school children. In addition, 21 children received reinforcement injections. These figures relate to the period January 1st to July 4th, 1948. The immunisation state of the child population is fairly satisfactory, but there are still too many parents who do not realise the importance of having children immunised. Fortunately, no case of Diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

Immunisations, up to July 4th, were carried out by the Medical Practitioners of the district by arrangement with the Local Authority. The prophylactic used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid supplied by the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

### General Observations

The general health of the district during 1948 was fairly good. The birth-rate was better than the rate for England and Wales, but the death-rate was considerably higher than the rate for England and Wales. Both the infantile and maternal mortality rates compare very favourably with the rates for England and Wales.

Apart from an epidemic of Whooping Cough, there was nothing exceptional in the returns of notifications of Infectious Diseases. Most of the cases of Whooping Cough were in children up to the age of five years. There were no serious complications noted, and fortunately there were no deaths from the disease.

The number of deaths from Cancer showed rather a noteworthy increase, but the deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis were Nil compared with 3 in 1947.

In housing and sanitation, some slight progress was made, but considerably more and quicker progress needs to be made in housing. In the matter of sanitation, it is worth noting that in 1928 the number of privy middens was 157, whereas now there are only four.



General Observations (cont.)

Once more one has to lament the shortage of modern cottages with three or four bedrooms. At the present rate of building, with a list of several hundred applicants, some of those near the bottom of the list must feel that their chances of getting a new house are extremely remote. Again, one cannot too strongly emphasise the need for demolishing a considerable number of the old houses, but obviously nothing can be done in this respect until there is a sufficiently large number of new houses to re-house the tenants of the old houses. Overcrowding is on the increase, and would appear to be outstripping the rate of building. Shortage of houses, the need for demolishing old property, and overcrowding are ugly problems which will have to be tackled with real determination if they are not to get out of hand altogether.

The recreational facilities provided by the Council have again proved popular and beneficial to the community, but they are all too few for the size of the population. The youngsters need tennis courts and football pitches, whilst the provision of two or three concrete cricket pitches might well be considered as a worth-while experiment.

The Clinics and Treatment Centres provided by the County Council have once more, as in previous years, proved very helpful, but the complete inadequacy of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is still very strongly in evidence.

With the bringing into operation, on July 5th, 1948, of the National Health Service Act, many organisations which had for many years played an important and beneficial part in the life of the community, passed into the realms of history, and likewise, many practices which had for a long period helped in carrying out the health services of the country, were superseded by new methods and practices. Amongst such must be mentioned the Little Lever Sick Nursing Association, which for many years served a very real part in the health services of the district, and which now exists almost in name only. It is only fitting to place on record the tremendous help which the Association has been to the district, and to express the hope that the new order will not be found wanting. If all concerned in the working of the Act show a spirit of co-operation, understanding and foresight, success should not be unattainable.

W. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

18th July, 1949.





Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Urban District of Little Lever for the  
year 1948, on the Administration of the  
Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises (1)	M/c Line No. (2)	Number or Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	11	8	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	23	12	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL		34	20	Nil	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspec. (5)	By H.M. Inspec. (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4					
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5					
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	6					
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	7					
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.)	8					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)						
(a) insufficient	9					
(b) unsuitable or defective	10					
(c) not separate for sexes	11					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12					
TOTAL	60					





## PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK  
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Works (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. of out-workers in August list reqd. by Section 110(1)(c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prose- cutions (8)
Wearing (Making & c. apparel (Cleaning & washing Household linen Lace, lace curtains and nets Curtains and Fur- niture hangings Furniture and upholstery Electro-plate File making Brass and brass articles Fur pulling Iron and steel cables & chains Iron and steel anchors and grapnels Cart gear Locks, latches and keys Umbrellas, etc. Artificial flowers Nets, other than wire nets Tents Sacks Racquet and tennis balls Paper bags The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper Brush making Pea picking Feather sorting Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. Stuffed toys Basket making Chocolates and sweetmeats Cosaques, Christ- mas crackers, &c. Textile weaving Lampshades	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL		1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Signature - W. MOTTERSHEAD,  
Medical Officer of Health  
Date - 18th July, 1949.

